Initially, the Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt of the priority documents filed on March 28, 2000.

Claims 32, 67 and 74 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Specifically, the Office Action contended that the limitation of "the feature" in the step of "associating the chosen representative value" lacked sufficient antecedent basis. However, in the "reading the description of the resource" step, Claim 32 recites a description having "descriptor components each which comprises a name of a feature". Claims 67 and 74 also recite similar claim language. As such, Claims 32, 67 and 74 are believed to supply antecedent basis for the limitation of "the feature" and are believed to comply with § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 112, second paragraph rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4 to 9, 11, 12, 14 to 18, 32, 33, 35 to 37, 39 to 44, 46, 47, 49 to 53, 67, 68, 70, 71, 74 and 119 to 121 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,644,776 (DeRose). Claims 10 and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over DeRose in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,073,148 (Rowe). Claims 34 and 69 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over DeRose. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present invention relates to browsing electronically-accessible resources. More specifically, the present invention utilizes descriptions of the resources to browse the resources. The descriptions of the resources are separate from the resources and have descriptor components with attributes representative of at least two axes of access to the resource. Items for selection representative of a first axis of access are displayed and a user selects one or more descriptor components using the displayed items. Then, items

for selection representative of a further axis of access are displayed. The further items correspond to child descriptor components of the previously selected descriptor components. The displayed and selected items derive from the description of the resource and not the resource itself. Finally, in response to a further selection of a descriptor component, a portion of the electronically-accessible resource is read via the link of the selected descriptor component.

With specific reference to the claims, independent Claim 1 recites a method of browsing electronically-accessible resources using descriptions of the resources. The method comprises the step of reading the descriptions of the resources, the descriptions have descriptor components having attributes representative of at least two axes of access to the resources, wherein at least one axis of access is a table-of-contents classification. The descriptions are separate from the resources, and each descriptor component that has an attribute representative of a table of contents also has a link to a corresponding portion of the electronically-accessible resources. The method further comprises the step of displaying items for selection in accordance with an attribute representative of a first axis of access that is a table-of-contents classification, each item being associated with a corresponding descriptor component of a description read in the reading step.

The method also comprises the steps of receiving a selection of one or more descriptor components using the displayed items, receiving an indication of a further axis of access, and displaying, in response to the received indication, further items for selection in accordance with an attribute representative of the further axis of access, wherein the further items correspond to child descriptor components of the selected one or more

descriptor components. The method further comprises the step of reading, in response to a further selection of a descriptor component having an attribute representative of a table-of-contents classification, a portion of the electronically-accessible resources via the link of the selected descriptor component.

Independent Claims 36 and 71 are apparatus and computer-readable medium claims, respectively, and correspond generally to the method of independent Claim 1.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest the features of independent Claims 1, 36 and 71, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or suggest at least the feature of browsing electronically-accessible resources with descriptions of the resource that are separate from the resource.

In this regard, DeRose is seen to teach that the display and selection of items require access to the resource itself, as will be described in more detail below.

DeRose relates to a data processing system and method for generating a representation of an electronic document, for indexing the electronic document, for navigating the electronic document using its representation, and for displaying the electronic document on an output device (see Abstract).

The Office Action contends that DeRose teaches the feature of "the description being separate from the resources"(column 12, line 56 through column 13, line 6). The cited passage describes how a document having descriptive markup may be parsed and an element directory generated. The element directory may then be used to traverse the document. Although the element directory may be regarded as a description of the original

document, Applicant submits that DeRose does not display items for selection based on this element directory. Instead, when making use of the element directory to navigate the document, the method of DeRose is seen to read information from the original document.

The element directory 91 is depicted in Fig. 6 of DeRose and is described at column 9, line 25. The element directory 91 is an array of element descriptors 90. Each element descriptor 90 represents an element of the document. Each element descriptor comprises five fields (92, 94, 96, 98 and 100) to describe the position of the element descriptor in the tree structure of the SGML document. The element descriptor 90 further includes a field 102 for representing the type of the element and a field 104 for representing the location of text characters for a text chunk of the location of other data associated with the element. The fields 102 and 104 are not seen to contain any of the actual content of the document. Instead, fields 102 and 104 are descriptive of the structure of the document and the location of the document content.

The Office Action cites Fig. 12 and column 17, lines 5-15 as teaching "displaying items for selection." However, DeRose is seen to teach that the displayed items in Fig. 12 do not derive from the description of the resource, but instead are retrieved from the resource itself, i.e. the SGML document. The present invention, on the other hand, recites displaying items for selection in accordance with an attribute representative of a first axis of access, wherein descriptions of the resources have descriptor components having attributes representative of at least two axes of access to the resources, and wherein the descriptions are separate from the resources.

In addition, DeRose is seen to teach that the construction of a table of contents is a form of excerpted view of the actual document (column 16, lines 63-64). As shown in Fig. 16, the construction of the table of contents involves a traversal (step 210) of the document beginning with the root element. Figs. 12-13 illustrate how portions of the SGML document are rendered for viewing by the user, based on a lookup window and table of contents. However, the displayed information on which the user makes his or her selection is excerpted from the SGML document and not from a separate description. The items displayed in the table of contents are not seen to be descriptor components, but instead are seen to be text or images retrieved from the actual resource.

On page 3, the Office Action contends that DeRose has "element descriptors such as BOOK, CHAPTER, or SECTION as descriptor components having their own text as attributes." In Applicant's understanding, this is not an accurate description of DeRose. The element descriptors 90 are not seen to have their own text as attributes. Instead, the element descriptors 90 include pointers to the location of the actual text of the element. As may be seen in Fig. 5, the actual text comprises a separate node of the tree, rather than being an attribute of a node. Thus node 71 is a title and the child node 73 contains the text of the title.

This is confirmed in the element directory 91 of Fig. 6. Element descriptor 72 is defined as being a title, but it does not have pointer to any attribute or text (field 104 is NULL for element 72). The actual text of the title is defined in element descriptor 73. Field 102 defines that the element is of type "# text" and field 104 contains a pointer to the electronically-accessible resource, whereby the rendering procedure may retrieve the actual

contents of the title. As such, DeRose is not seen to teach descriptions having descriptor components that have attributes representative of at least two axes of access, muchless that the descriptions (and its descriptor components) are separate from the resource. Rather, DeRose is seen to access the resource itself to generate element descriptors.

The remaining art applied against the claims, namely Rowe, is not seen to supply what is missing from DeRose. Accordingly, in view of the foregoing, Claims 1, 36 and 71 are believed to allowable over the applied references.

According to another aspect of the invention, independent Claim 32 recites a method for annotating an electronically-accessible resource using a description of the resource. Among other things, Claim 32 recites the feature of "reading the description of the resource but not reading the resource."

Independent Claims 67 and 74 are apparatus and computer-readable medium claims, respectively, and correspond generally to the method of independent Claim 32.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest the features of independent Claims 32, 67 and 74, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or suggest at least the feature of reading the description of the resource but not reading the resource.

For at least the reasons discussed above with reference to independent Claims 1, 36 and 71, DeRose is also not seen to teach the feature of reading the description of the resource but not reading the resource.

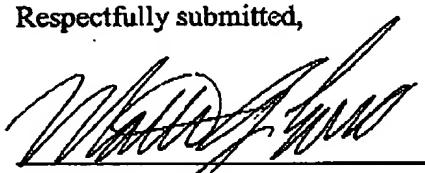
The remaining art applied against the claims, namely Rowe, is not seen to supply what is missing from DeRose. Accordingly, in view of the foregoing, Claims 32, 67 and 74 are believed to allowable over the applied references.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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